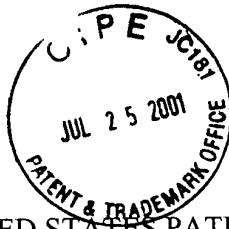


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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Toshihiko TSUJI) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Application No.: 09/821,024) Group Art Unit: 2875
Filed: March 30, 2001)
For: ILLUMINATION OPTICAL SYSTEM) July 25, 2001
IN EXPOSURE APPARATUS)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Applications:

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>	<u>GROUP ART UNIT</u>
09/044,148 <i>359/618</i>	March 19, 1998	2873
09/127,953 <i>355/067</i>	August 3, 1998	2851
09/323,031 <i>355/067</i>	June 1, 1999	2851

A copy of each cited Application is enclosed.

U.S. Appln. No. 09/821,024
Docket: 684.3159

European Patent Application No. 0 867 772 A2 corresponds to Japanese Patent Document No. 10-270312, which corresponds to U.S. Application No. 09/044,148. This Japanese document also has been discussed in the subject specification on page 2.

Japanese Patent Document No. 11-54426 corresponds to U.S. Application No. 09/127,953.

Japanese Patent Document No. 11-176721 corresponds to U.S. Application No. 09/323,031.

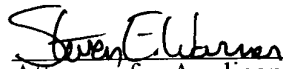
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2) is due.

Applicant requests that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

U.S. Appln. No. 09/821,024
Docket: 684.3159

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Steven E. Warner
Registration No. 33,326

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

SEW\srd